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United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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Cedar City, Utah 84720  
Phone: (435) 586-2429  
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OGM PRICE FIELD OFFICE

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Priscilla Burton  
Environmental Scientist III  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
State of Utah- Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 145801  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

RE: Prime Farmland Determination, Alton Coal Development Company, LLC, Proposed Coal Hollow Mine, C/025/0005, Task ID#2567

Dear Priscilla:

As requested, a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD 1006) is enclosed, for the proposed Coal Hollow Mine area, located near Alton City in Kane County, Utah.

No Prime Farmland or Soils of Statewide Importance were found within the study area, per criteria outlined in the National Soil Survey Handbook Part 622 and Exhibit UT603-1, respectively. No NRCS published, or SSURGO certified soil survey data exists for the project area, so an on-site investigation, soil sampling and descriptions were used for this assessment. Although soils within the proposed activity area do not presently meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Soils of Statewide Importance (SSI), they could classify as Soils of Statewide Importance, if irrigated.

Soils are alluvium and residuum, primarily formed from Tropic Shale parent material that exhibit mollic epipedons and contain little to no rock fragments on the soil surface or in the soil profiles, to a depth of 60 inches. Subsurface textures are typically silty clay, with the upper horizons from 0 to 27 inches ranging from silty clay loam to clay loam textures. Visible calcium carbonate and salt concentrations were observed in the soil profile, ranging from 10 inches to 27 inches deep and extending to depths of 60 inches or greater. Slopes range from 1 to 10 percent, with some minor areas exceeding 20 percent. Observed soils are predominantly Fine, mixed, superactive, mesic Pachic Calciustolls and Fine, mixed, superactive, mesic Aridic Natrustolls.

An available and reliable source of moisture to sustain crops common to the area is the primary limiting factor that excludes the observed soils from classifying as Prime Farmland or SSI. In the case

of SSI, a reliable source of water is the only factor that excludes soils from classifying as such where slopes are less than 14 percent.

In addition to a lack of a reliable source of water, soils did not classify as Prime Farmland due to high pH, high electrical conductivity, excessive erosion potential on steep slopes and slow permeability rates.

Within the scope of the proposed project area, no conversion of Prime Farmland or Soils of Statewide Importance would occur because soils in the project area do not classify as such.

If you need any additional information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Meier', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Corey Meier  
Soil Scientist

Enclosures

Cc: Michael Domeier, State Soil Scientist, SLC, UT

## U.S. Department of Agriculture

## FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Date Of Land Evaluation Request 10/30/06			
Name Of Project Proposed Coal Hollow Mine		Federal Agency Involved USDA - NRCS			
Proposed Land Use Coal mine		County And State Kane, Utah			
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		Date Request Received By NRCS			
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %			Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	Name Of Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS			
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		<b>Alternative Site Rating</b>			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly					
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly					
C. Total Acres In Site		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)</b>		0	0	0	0
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b> Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))		Maximum Points			
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	0	0	0
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	0	0	0

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection 10/30/06	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Reason For Selection: The project impacts Fine, mixed, superactive, mesic Pachic Calciustolls and Fine, mixed, superactive, mesic Aridic Natrustolls. No NRCS SSURGO certified soil survey presently exists for the project area. Impacted soils and determinations were evaluated by conducting a local site assessment. Observed soils do not classify as Prime Farmland, but do classify as Soils of Statewide Importance, if irrigated. Because no irrigation is present, soils do not classify as Soils of Statewide Importance.

## STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

Step 1 – Federal agencies involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form.

Step 2 – Originator will send copies A, B and C together with maps indicating locations of site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local field office and retain copy D for their files. (Note: NRCS has a field office in most counties in the U.S. The field office is usually located in the county seat. A list of field office locations are available from the NRCS State Conservationist in each state).

Step 3 – NRCS will, within 45 calendar days after receipt of form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland.

Step 4 – In cases where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS field offices will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.

Step 5 – NRCS will return copy A and B of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project. (Copy C will be retained for NRCS records).

Step 6 – The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form.

Step 7 – The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA and the agency's internal policies.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

**Part I:** In completing the "County And State" questions list all the local governments that are responsible for local land controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

**Part III:** In completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities) that will cause a direct conversion.

**Part VI:** Do not complete Part VI if a local site assessment is used.

Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5 (b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type projects such as transportation, powerline and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will be weighed zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points, and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.

Individual Federal agencies at the national level, may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown in the FPPA rule. In all cases where other weights are assigned relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total weight points at 160.

In rating alternative sites, Federal agencies shall consider each of the criteria and assign points within the limits established in the FPPA rule. Sites most suitable for protection under these criteria will receive the highest total scores, and sites least suitable, the lowest scores.

**Part VII:** In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, adjust the site assessment points to a base of 160. Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

Total points assigned Site A =  $\frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144$  points for Site "A."

Maximum points possible      200